

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a node of a telecommunications network which prepares network system information for transmission across an air interface to a user equipment unit, the system information including a system information block type which is included in protocol blocks, the protocol blocks being a system information block and a referencing block, the referencing block being one or both of a master information block and a scheduling block, the protocol blocks in which the system information is included having a system information block type field which includes a system information block type value which corresponds to the system information block type, the system information block comprising one or more segments, comprising the steps of:

including a first system information block type extension indicator in the system information block type field of the referencing block when the system information block type for a system information block referenced by the referencing block does not have a system information block type value in a nominal range of system information block type values;

including a first system information block type extension field in the referencing block;

including in the first system information block type extension field a system information block type extension value which indicates a system information block type for the system information block referenced by the referencing block; and

including a second system information block type extension indicator in the system information block type field of a segment of the system information block referenced by the referencing block.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 further comprises the steps of:
including a second system information block type extension field in the segment of the system information block referenced by the referencing block; and
including in the second system information block type extension field the system information block type extension value which indicates the system information block type for the system information block referenced by the referencing block.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of including the second system information block type extension field in a data field of the segment.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the protocol blocks belong to a Radio Resource Control (RRC) protocol, and wherein the system information block type extension field occupies three bits of the data field of the segment.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the protocol blocks belong to a Radio Resource Control (RRC) protocol, wherein the referencing block is a master information block, and wherein the system information block type field for the master information block is an "SIB and SB type" information element.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the protocol blocks belong to a Radio Resource Control (RRC) protocol, wherein the referencing block is a scheduling block, and wherein the system information block type field for the scheduling information block is an "SIB type SIBS only" information element.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the protocol blocks belong to a Radio Resource Control (RRC) protocol, and wherein in the system information block the system information block type field includes a "SIB Type" information element.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for receiving network system information transmitted across an air interface from a network node at a user equipment unit, the system information including a system information block type which is included in protocol blocks, the protocol blocks being a system information block and a referencing block, the protocol blocks in which the system information is included having a system information block type field which includes a system information block type value which corresponds to the system information block type, the system information block comprising one or more segments, comprising the steps of:

- recognizing a first system information block type extension indicator in the system information block type field of the referencing block when the system information block type for a system information block referenced by the referencing block does not have a system information block type value in a nominal range of system information block type values ;

- locating a first system information block type extension field in the referencing block;

- obtaining from the first system information block type extension field a system information block type extension value which indicates a system information block type for the system information block referenced by the referencing block; and

- recognizing a second system information block type extension indicator in the system information block type field of a segment of the system information block referenced by the referencing block.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

- locating a second system information block type extension field in the segment of the system information block referenced by the referencing block; and

- obtaining from the second system information block type extension field the system information block type extension value which indicates the system information block type for the system information block referenced by the referencing block.

17-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8 comprising the step of:
including in the referencing block a code set identifier which identifies a selected one of plural code sets for use in interpreting the system information block type value included in the system information block type field of the system information block referenced by the referencing block.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein
a first value for the code set identifier requires that the system information block type value be interpreted in accordance with a range of nominal system information block type values for a predetermined protocol; and
a second value for the code set identifier requires that the system information block type value be interpreted in accordance with a range of extended system information block type values, the extended system information block type values being outside the range of nominal system information block type values.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising including the code set identifier in an extension field of the referencing block.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising formatting the system information block and the referencing block in accordance with a predetermined protocol.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the predetermined protocol is a Radio Resource Control (RRC) protocol.

36-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

obtaining from the referencing block, a code set identifier which identifies a selected one of plural code sets; and

using the selected one of the plural code sets for interpreting the system information block type value included in the system information block type field of the system information block referenced by the referencing block.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein

a first value for the code set identifier requires that the system information block type value be interpreted in accordance with a range of nominal system information block type values for a predetermined protocol; and

a second value for the code set identifier requires that the system information block type value be interpreted in accordance with a range of extended system information block type values, the extended system information block type values being outside the range of nominal system information block type values.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, obtaining the code set identifier from an extension field of the referencing block.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 deformatting the system information block and the referencing block in accordance with a predetermined protocol.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the predetermined protocol is a Radio Resource Control (RRC) protocol.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the protocol blocks belong to a Radio Resource Control (RRC) protocol, and wherein the referencing block

is a master information block, and wherein the system information block type field for the master information block is an "SIB and SB type" information element.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the protocol blocks belong to a Radio Resource Control (RRC) protocol, and wherein the referencing block is a scheduling block, and wherein the system information block type field for the scheduling information block is an "SIB type SIBS only" information element.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the protocol blocks belong to a Radio Resource Control (RRC) protocol, and wherein in the system information block the system information block type field includes a "SIB Type" information element.

47. (Previously Presented) A user equipment unit which receives network system information transmitted across an air interface from a network node, the system information including a system information block type which is included in protocol blocks, the protocol blocks being a system information block and a referencing block, the protocol blocks in which the system information is included having a system information block type field which includes a system information block type value which corresponds to the system information block type, the system information block including one or more segments, comprising:

means for recognizing a first system information block type extension indicator in the system information block type field of the referencing block when the system information block type for a system information block referenced by the referencing block does not have a system information block type value in a nominal range of system information block type values;

means for locating a first system information block type extension field in the referencing block;

means for obtaining from the first system information block type extension field a system information block type extension value which indicates a system information block type for the system information block referenced by the referencing block; and

means for recognizing a second system information block type extension indicator in the system information block type field of a segment of the system information block referenced by the referencing block.

48. (Previously Presented) The user equipment unit of Claim 47 further comprising:

means for locating a second system information block type extension field in the segment of the system information block referenced by the referencing block; and

means for obtaining from the second system information block type extension field the system information block type extension value which indicates the system information block type for the system information block referenced by the referencing block.

49. (Previously Presented) The user equipment unit of Claim 48 further comprising:

means for obtaining, from the referencing block, a code set identifier which identifies a selected one of plural code sets; and

means for using the selected one of the plural code sets for interpreting the system information block type value included in the system information block type field of the system information block referenced by the referencing block.

50. (Previously Presented) The user equipment unit of Claim 49, wherein
a first value for the code set identifier requires that the system information block type value be interpreted in accordance with a range of nominal system information block type values for a predetermined protocol; and

a second value for the code set identifier requires that the system information block type value be interpreted in accordance with a range of extended system

information block type values, the extended system information block type values being outside the range of nominal system information block type values.

51. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating network system information across an air interface between a network node and a user equipment unit, the system information including a system information block type which is included in protocol blocks, the protocol blocks being a system information block and a referencing block, the protocol blocks in which the system information is included having a system information block type field which includes a system information block type value which corresponds to the system information block type, the system information block comprising one or more segments, comprising the steps of:

- including a first system information block type extension indicator in the system information block type field of the referencing block when the system information block type for a system information block referenced by the referencing block does not have a system information block type value in a nominal range of system information block type values;

- including a first system information block type extension field in the referencing block;

- including in the first system information block type extension field a system information block type extension value which indicates a system information block type for the system information block referenced by the referencing block;

- including a second system information block type extension indicator in the system information block type field of a segment of the system information block referenced by the referencing block;

- transmitting the referencing block and the system information block from the network node to the user equipment unit;

- recognizing that said first system information block type extension indicator in the system information block type field of the received referencing block when the system information block type for a system information block referenced by the referencing

block does not have a system information block type value in the nominal range of system information block type values ;

locating said first system information block type extension field in the referencing block;

obtaining from the first system information block type extension field the system information block type extension value which indicates the system information block type for the system information block referenced by the referencing block; and recognizing the second system information block type extension indicator in the system information block type field of a segment of the system information block referenced by the referencing block.

* * *